

§ 3403.11 Availability of information.

Information regarding the peer review process will be made available to the extent permitted under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552), the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a), the SBIR Policy Directive, and implementing Departmental and other Federal regulations. Implementing Departmental regulations are found at 7 CFR part 1.

Subpart E—Supplementary Information

§ 3403.12 Terms and conditions of grant awards.

Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the awarding official shall make research project grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose proposals are judged most meritorious in the announced program areas under the evaluation criteria and procedures set forth in the annual solicitation. The beginning of the project period shall be no later than September 30 of the Federal fiscal year in which the project is approved for support. All funds granted under this part shall be expended solely for the purpose for which the funds are granted in accordance with the approved application and budget, the regulations of this part, the terms and conditions of the award, the Federal Acquisition Regulation (48 CFR part 31), and the Department's Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations (7 CFR part 3015).

§ 3403.13 Notice of grant awards.

(a) The grant award document shall include, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) Legal name and address of performing organization.
- (2) Title of project.
- (3) Name(s) and address(es) of the Principal Investigator(s).
- (4) Identifying grant number assigned by the Department.
- (5) Project period, which specifies how long the Department intends to support the effort.
- (6) Total amount of Federal financial assistance approved for the project period.
- (7) Legal authorities under which the grant is awarded.

(8) Approved budget plan for categorizing project funds to accomplish the stated purpose of the grant award.

(9) Other information or provisions deemed necessary by the Department to carry out its granting activities or to accomplish the purpose of a particular research project grant.

(b) The notice of grant award, in the form of a letter, will provide pertinent instructions and information to the grantee which are not included in the grant award document described in paragraph (a) of this section.

§ 3403.14 Use of funds; changes.

(a) *Delegation of fiscal responsibility.* The grantee may not in whole or in part delegate or transfer to another person, institution, or organization the responsibility for use or expenditure of grant funds.

(b) *Change in project plans.* (1) The permissible changes by the grantee, principal investigator(s), or other key project personnel in the approved research project grant shall be limited to changes in methodology, techniques, or other aspects of the project to expedite achievement of the project's approved goals. If the grantee and/or the principal investigator(s) are uncertain as to whether a change complies with this paragraph, the question must be referred to the Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) for a final determination.

(2) Changes in approved goals, or objectives, shall be requested by the grantee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to effecting such changes. In no event shall requests for such changes be approved which are outside the scope of the original approved project.

(3) Changes in approved project leadership or the replacement or reassignment of other key project personnel shall be requested by the grantee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to effecting such changes.

(4) Transfers of actual performance of the substantive programmatic work in whole or in part and provisions for payment of funds, whether or not Federal funds are involved, shall be requested by the grantee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to effecting such transfers.

(c) *Changes in project period.* The project period may be extended by the ADO to complete or fulfill the purposes of an approved project provided Federal funds remain. The extension shall be conditioned upon a prior request by the grantee and approval in writing by the ADO. In such cases the extension will not normally exceed 12 months, the phase I award will still be limited to the approved award amount, and the submission of a Phase II proposal will be delayed by one year. The extension allows the grantee to continue expending the remaining Federal funds for the intended purpose over the extension period. In instances where no Federal funds remain, it is unnecessary to approve an extension since the purpose of the extension is to continue using Federal funds. The grantee may opt to continue the Phase I project after the grant's termination and closeout, however, the grantee would have to do so without additional Federal funds. In the latter case, no communication with USDA is necessary. However, the maximum delay for submission of a Phase II proposal remains as specified in § 3403.4(b).

(d) *Changes in approved budget.* Changes in an approved budget shall be requested by the grantee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to instituting such changes if the revision will:

- (1) Involve transfers of amounts budgeted for indirect costs to absorb an increase in direct costs;
- (2) Involve transfers of amounts budgeted for direct costs to accommodate changes in indirect cost rates negotiated during a budget period and not approved when a grant was awarded;
- (3) Result in a need or claim for the award of additional funds; or
- (4) Involve transfers or expenditures of amounts requiring prior approval as set forth in the Departmental regulations or in the grant award.

§ 3403.15 Other Federal statutes and regulations that apply.

Several other Federal statutes and/or regulations apply to grant proposals considered for review or to research project grants awarded under this part. These include but are not limited to:

- 7 CFR Part 1—USDA implementation of Freedom of Information Act.
- 7 CFR Part 1c—USDA implementation of the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects;
- 7 CFR Part 3—USDA implementation of OMB Circular A-129, Managing Federal Credit Programs.
- 7 CFR Part 15, Subpart A—USDA implementation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended.
- 7 CFR Part 3015—USDA Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations, implementing OMB directives where applicable (i.e., Circular Nos. A-102, A-110, A-87, A-21, and A-122) and incorporating the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977, Pub. L. 95-224), as well as general policy requirements applicable to recipients of Departmental financial assistance.
- 7 CFR Part 3017, as amended—USDA implementation of Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace (Grants), as amended.
- 7 CFR Part 3018—USDA implementation of New Restrictions on Lobbying. Imposes new prohibitions and requirements for disclosure and certification related to lobbying on recipients of Federal contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and loans.
- 7 CFR Part 3407—CSREES procedures to implement the National Environmental Policy Act;
- 9 CFR Parts 1, 2, 3, and 4—USDA implementation of the Act of August 24, 1966, Public Law 89-544, as amended (commonly known as the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act).
- 48 CFR Part 31—Contract Cost Principles and Procedures of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.
- 29 U.S.C. 794, section 504—Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and 7 CFR Part 15B (USDA implementation of statute), prohibiting discrimination based upon physical or mental handicap in Federally assisted programs.
- 35 U.S.C. 200 *et seq.*—Bayh-Dole Act, controlling allocation of rights to inventions made by employees of small business firms and domestic nonprofit organizations, including universities, in Federally assisted programs (implementing regulations are contained in 37 CFR Part 401).

§ 3403.16 Other conditions.

The Department may, with respect to any research project grant, impose additional conditions prior to or at the time of any award when, in the Department's judgment, such conditions are necessary to assure or protect advancement of the approved project, the interests of the public, or the conservation of grant funds.